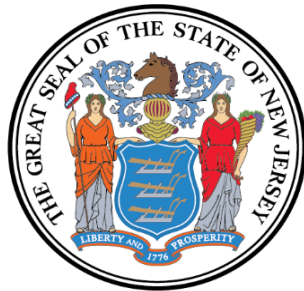
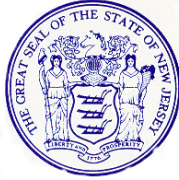


New Jersey State Annual Opioid Abatement Report 2023



September 29, 2023



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Governor

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

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The State of New Jersey and its subdivisions will receive more than 1.1 billion dollars over the next two decades to combat the opioid epidemic through settlement agreements with several opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. Approximately half of the settlement dollars will go directly to the State to administer and, after payment of litigation expenses, the remainder will be distributed directly to 262 eligible subdivisions (comprising 21 counties and eligible municipalities that have populations over 10,000 or that filed related lawsuits) by the Independent Trustee who is responsible for the release of the Opioid Settlement Funds.

Allowable uses of the Opioid Settlement Funds include:

- Treating opioid use disorder (OUD)
- Supporting people in treatment and recovery
- Providing connections to care
- Addressing the needs of justice involved persons
- Addressing the needs of pregnant or parenting people who use drugs and their families
- Preventing over-prescribing and ensuring appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids by health care professionals
- Preventing problematic misuse of opioids
- Preventing overdose deaths and harms through harm reduction strategies
- Other goals such as supporting first responders, training, and cross-system collaborative efforts, and/or research

The NJ Department of Human Services is pleased to present the first annual report outlining the use of these funds. The following report represents the State-level investments.

New Jersey 2023 Opioid Abatement Report

1. For which eligible subdivision are you reporting? **The State of New Jersey**
2. As an eligible subdivision receiving opioid abatement funds, please tell us the following:
Email Address: **opioidsettlement@dhs.nj.gov**
3. Please tell us the full amount of opioid abatement funds you received as of 6/30/23. **\$54,769,260**
4. Please tell us the amount of opioid abatement funds you have expended (as of 6/30/23). **\$775,000.00**
5. Of the total opioid abatement funds, what amount was spent on program administrative expenses?
\$0.00
6. Please share brief information on the state's overarching goals and priorities to provide context for this program year's spending decisions.
The State of New Jersey has reached agreements on several national lawsuits against companies for their roles in the opioid crisis. These lawsuits hold prescription opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers accountable for their role in creating and fueling the opioid epidemic.

New Jersey and its subdivisions will receive more than one billion dollars over the next two decades (beginning in 2022) from national opioid settlements. The state will receive approximately half of these monies, and the remainder will be provided directly to participating local and municipal government agencies after payment of litigation expenses.

The funding will serve goals such as treating opioid use disorder, addressing the needs of justice-involved individuals, offering harm reduction services, preventing overdose deaths, supporting relevant research and training, and other similar ways of combating the opioid epidemic. The funds will be divided between state and local municipalities, and will supplement existing spending or create new programs that focus on treatment, prevention, and other strategies to combat the opioid epidemic. They will also be spent on strategies to reduce the opioid epidemic's ongoing harms to residents and communities.

These steps are a part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to combat the opioid crisis. Under Governor Murphy's leadership, New Jersey has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars toward addressing the opioid crisis, including creating over 30 evidence-based programs across eight departments, in addition to other initiatives.

Example efforts include:

- **Signing harm reduction and syringe decriminalization legislation into law, which has allowed agencies to expand harm reduction services throughout the state.**
- **Expanding the Medication-Assisted Treatment Initiative (MATI) across the state's Harm Reduction Centers.**
- **Launching a Naloxone Distribution Program to make this overdose antidote more widely available to first responders and community organizations.**
- **Awarding contracts and grants to help opioid treatment providers expand access to mobile treatment programs and gain cultural competency training, help community organizations create recovery centers for people with substance use disorders, and help mental health providers treat individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders.**
- **Launching a pilot program to assist children and families affected by addiction.**
- **Expanding access to substance use disorder/opioid addiction treatment resources by making them available online and in multiple languages including in American Sign Language.**

7. Have you established an Advisory Committee to inform allocation of funds?

On Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, 2022, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 305 to establish an Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council chaired by Commissioner of the Department of Human Services Sarah Adelman and comprising the Attorney General and the Commissioners of the Departments of Health and Children and Families, along with relevant stakeholders to make recommendations for the Administration's consideration regarding the prioritization and effective use of these funds. In December 2022, Governor Murphy announced the appointment of its ten public members who would provide insight and expert recommendations on how New Jersey should appropriate these abatement funds over the life of the settlement years. In March 2023, Governor Murphy enacted P.L.2023, c.25 to codify the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council into state law and establish an Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund. This non-lapsing fund within the Department of Treasury is where the State's share of settlement funds will be deposited and eventually distributed as determined by the State, with recommendations from the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council. The statute names the NJ Department of Human Services as the lead agency for allocation and disbursement of the funding. To learn more about the Advisory Council, please visit www.nj.gov/opioidfunds.

8. Did the State engage the public (e.g., town hall meeting, online survey, convened stakeholders) prior to deciding how to use the opioid abatement funds you received? **Yes**

9. Please describe your public engagement/input efforts?

The State's Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council membership reflects New Jersey's diversity and includes people who have lived experience with the opioid epidemic, including those who have experienced a substance use disorder and their families, as well as public health and policy experts.

The State solicited and has accepted public input over the 12 months in a variety of forums. From August 31 through October 31, 2022, the public was solicited to submit feedback, testimonials, and recommendations on spending through an online public portal. Over those two months, the portal received more than 500 submissions.

The Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council hosted a series of public listening sessions in the Spring and Summer of 2023. The Council held two virtual sessions and three in-person sessions—one the North region, one in the Central region, and one in the Southern region of the state. To view or listen to recordings of the two virtual sessions, please visit www.nj.gov/opioidfunds.

10. Does the State have a strategic plan? **Yes – the State is currently in the procurement process for the development of a strategic plan to inform the use of the state share of opioid settlement funds in New Jersey.**

11. Can we post the strategic plan online? **Once completed, the Strategic Plan will be posted online at www.nj.gov/opioidfunds. Anticipated completion is Spring 2024.**

New Jersey 2023 Opioid Abatement Report

Program 1

12. Program name/title: **Opioid Crisis Emergency Response**

Agency/funding recipient name: **New Jersey Department of Human Services**

Primary problem being addressed by this program: **Equipping the state with flexibility to respond rapidly and adequately to emergencies as needed in the fight to curb the impact of the opioid epidemic on communities across New Jersey..**

Brief program description: **These resources will be set aside for rapid deployment in the opioid crisis response for specific emergencies where the funding and a response cannot wait for the next state funding cycle. For example, these may be used to address emerging public health threats in the drug supply like Xylazine, especially where other funding sources may not be available in a timely manner.**

Program target population: **The target population will vary depending on the emergency identified.**

Date this program was funded (please use M/D/Y): **9/18/2023**

Amount of funding for this program: **\$500,000.00**

Program launch date: **N/A – funds have been appropriated but not yet spent.**

If program has started, how many clients have been seen as of 6/30/2023: **N/A**

What key performance indicators are you tracking to ensure success of the program? **The State will develop individual tracking and success measures depending on the emergency response identified with each use of funds.**

Please state this program's statement of impact: **These resources will be set aside for rapid deployment in the opioid crisis response. These may include addressing new harms in the drug supply and implementing novel innovations to save lives in the opioid response.**

How do you plan to measure or track success and impact of this program? **Measured impact and success of this program will be based on the time it takes to apply these funds once an emergent usage is identified, as well as the overall allocation and utilization of funds over time. Key performance indicators will be developed for each use of these funds.**

13. Primary Category (Please select the category that fits the primary focus of this program). **All Categories – this emergency fund can be used across any and all categories.**

14. Please choose the length of time of this program's duration: **One-time funding**

15. How often are you disbursing funds to this program? **Disbursements through this fund will occur until all funds are depleted. If not expended, the funding would roll into monies available for the next annual funding cycle.**

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Program 2

12. Program name/title: **Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council – Strategic Plan**

Agency/funding recipient name: **New Jersey Department of Human Services**

Brief program description: **NJ DHS is procuring for the development of a strategic plan that outlines NJ’s opioid-related needs and assets as well as identifying ways forward for distributing these funds and evaluating the outcomes of those efforts. This plan will integrate and synthesize the expertise, experiences, needs, assets, and input of Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council members, public comments and submissions, and other NJ stakeholders, including perspectives from people who use drugs and people in recovery. The strategic plan will inform the recommendations made by the Council to the State regarding the allocation of the state-share of settlement funds.**

Program target population: **The aim of the Strategic Plan is to formalize input and expertise from state officials, the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council, key stakeholders, and the public.**

Date this program was funded (please use M/D/Y): **9/18/2023**

Amount of funding for this program: **\$275,000.00**

Program launch date: **N/A – funds have been appropriated but not yet spent.**

If program has started, how many clients have been seen as of 6/30/2023: **N/A**

What key performance indicators are you tracking to ensure success of the program? **The State is procuring a vendor and will execute a signed contract agreement with the vendor to develop the strategic plan with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2024.**

Please state this program's statement of impact: **The Strategic Plan will integrate and synthesize the expertise, experiences, needs, assets, and input of Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council members, public comments and submissions, and other NJ stakeholders, including perspectives from people who use drugs and people in recovery. The strategic plan will inform the recommendations made by the Council to the State regarding the allocation of the state-share of settlement funds.**

How do you plan to measure or track success and impact of this program? **Measured impact and success of this program will be based on the time it takes to complete the strategic plan.**

13. Primary Category (Please select the category that fits the primary focus of this program). **All Categories – the Strategic Plan will inform spending recommendations across any and all allowable categories.**

14. Please choose the length of time of this program's duration: **Anticipated completion in Spring 2024. Once completed, the Strategic Plan will be posted online at www.nj.gov/opioidfunds.**

15. How often are you disbursing funds to this program? **One-time funding.**